

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the full-length nucleocapsid (NP) protein of Newcastle disease virus (NDV), wherein the full-length nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) A recombinant expression plasmid containing the isolated nucleic acid molecule NDV nucleocapsid gene as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) The recombinant expression plasmid according to claim 7, wherein which is the expression plasmid comprises coding regions for a myc epitope and 6 His residues downstream of a multiple cloning site into which the isolated nucleic acid is inserted pTreHis2-NP constructed by cloning the NDV nucleocapsid gene of claims 1 or 2 into vector pTreHis2.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) An A-transformed Escherichia coli cell transformed with the recombinant expression plasmid ~~according to~~ of claim 7 ~~or claim 9~~.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) The Escherichia coli cell transformed microorganism according to claim 11, which has a genotype of F⁻ mcrA Δ(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) φ80lacZΔM15 ΔlacX74 recA1 araΔ139 Δ(ara-leu)7697 galU galK rpsL (Str^R) endA1 nupG ~~is the transformed E. coli~~

~~TOP10 (pTrcHis2 NP) produced by introducing the recombinant expression plasmid of claim 7 or claim 9 into *E. coli* TOP10.~~

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) An *Escherichia coli* cell transformed with the recombinant expression plasmid of claim 9.

18. (New) The *Escherichia coli* cell according to claim 17, which has a genotype of F⁻ *mcrA* $\Delta(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC)$ $\phi 80lacZ\Delta M15$ $\Delta lacX74$ *recA1* *ara* Δ 139 $\Delta(ara-leu)$ 7697 *galU* *galK* *rpsL* (Str^R) *endA1* *nupG*.